

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 663

By Haynes

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the winners of Best in State for the 2009 Star of Life Award, conferred by the Tennessee Emergency Medical Services for Children.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly pause to salute those Tennessee heroes who, even in the midst of the most demanding emergencies, maintain their professional comportment and provide care that dramatically improves outcomes for critically ill and injured citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Goodlettsville Fire Department, the Nashville Fire Department, Skyline Medical Center, Vanderbilt LifeFlight, and the Mother's Day Out Daycare Center at Goodlettsville's Hillview Baptist Church all employ staff members of the highest quality, and for their skill and dedication, many of these men and women recently received Best in State for the 2009 Star of Life Award from the Tennessee Emergency Medical Services for Children (TN EMSC), a non-profit organization that advocates for emergency and critical care for children; and

WHEREAS, the TN EMSC Star of Life Award honors the accomplishments of EMS personnel from all over the State of Tennessee who provide exemplary life-saving care to both adult and pediatric patients; and

WHEREAS, the award is sponsored by HCA/TriStar, Methodist Healthcare/Methodist University Hospital, Air Evac Lifeteam, Erlanger Health System/T.C. Thompson Children's Hospital, AAA Clubs of Tennessee, Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center, Tennessee EMS Education Association, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Adams and Reese LLP, East

Tennessee Children's Hospital, TeamHealth Midsouth, and the Tennessee College of Emergency Physicians; and

WHEREAS, on a May day in 2008, twenty-two-month-old Erik Jackson was outside playing among all the other children at the Mother's Day Out Daycare Center at Hillview Baptist Church; one moment Erik was on the swing, the next, he seemed to have disappeared; and

WHEREAS, daycare personnel began searching frantically for the boy, and church pastor Reverend Stephen Ramsey quickly discovered Erik in an abandoned septic tank nearly fifty yards from the playground; at the bottom of this six-foot-deep hole stood three feet of water; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Ramsey pulled Erik out by his ankles and found the little boy completely unresponsive; Daycare Director Mary Monroe immediately began administering CPR while another childcare worker called 9-1-1; and

WHEREAS, Nashville Fire Department's Paramedic Unit 41 and Goodlettsville's Fire Department Chief and a pumper crew were dispatched, all arriving on the scene in only four minutes to find what must be a nightmare scenario for even the most seasoned emergency medical technician (EMT); despite the efforts of daycare personnel, Erik was still without a pulse and was not breathing; and

WHEREAS, EMTs immediately initiated advanced life support (ALS) protocols for cardiac arrest, and Erik was whisked to nearby Skyline Medical Center, where the emergency department's team of medical professionals assumed the effort to revive him; for ninety minutes, Skyline staff continued ALS measures before Erik finally showed a pulse; and

WHEREAS, now with a heartbeat, but still in profound distress, the little boy was taken by LifeFlight to Monroe Carrell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt, where his condition continued to improve; and

WHEREAS, in a ceremony held May 12, 2009, at the Sheraton Nashville Downtown Hotel, Erik, miraculously recovered from his ordeal, was able to reunite with many of the men and women who were so instrumental in saving his life; the event was scheduled to coincide

with the beginning of Tennessee's Emergency Medical Services Week, which spans May 17 through May 23 this year; and

WHEREAS, at the ceremony, the following were recognized with the 2009 Best in State distinction for the excellent care they rendered that fateful May day: Phillip Gibson, Fire Chief/EMT; Rusty Tinnin, Firefighter/EMT (FF/EMT); Johnny Roberson, FF/EMT; Chris Hood, FF/EMT; Morgan Vero, Registered Nurse/EMT-Intravenous Therapy; Randy Tomlinson, FF/EMT; Scott Clinard, Paramedic (EMT-P); Bud Crawford, EMT; Charlie Bamman, EMT-P; Vanderbilt LifeFlight crew members Michelle Ingram and Chris Rediker; Randy Hughes, EMT-P; Drs. Brian Crabtree, Rhonda Shedd, and Jackie Vincent; and Hillview Baptist staff members Mary Monroe and Reverend Stephen Ramsey; and

WHEREAS, through their efforts that day in May 2008, these men and women demonstrated a steadfast dedication to the well-being of their fellow Tennesseans; the people of this State are fortunate indeed to count them among our ranks; and

WHEREAS, the members of this body find it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud them for saving the life of one of our fellow citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate the winners of Best in State for the 2009 Star of Life Award, conferred by the Tennessee Emergency Medical Services for Children, and wish all of them the very best in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.